

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 1996

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9083 in Parkville, MD which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

In 1946, as returning soldiers from World War II, these veterans found themselves informally meeting at neighborhood stores or on the street. It quickly became clear that they needed a more formal meeting place; somewhere to come together to be with others who had shared the same experiences that were so binding.

The Parkville VFW post began with 15 charter members; today it boasts 1,851 members. The post has grown along with the Parkville neighborhood and through the years has done an outstanding job of serving both the community and its members.

The VFW post has an impressive record of service. The post raised more than \$10,000 for the Johns Hopkins Children's Cancer Fund in one of its most successful endeavors. The post sponsors events for high school students such as the VFW Voice of Democracy Oratory Contest, which awards a \$25,000 scholarship to the national winner. Its assistance with local scout troops and ROTC groups also has benefited the youth of Parkville.

The VFW post members have a strong bond with veterans in the area. Their long-standing tradition of sponsoring a monthly event at the Fort Howard Veterans Hospital has helped to lift the spirits of many sick and disabled veterans. This VFW post is marked by the caring assistance its members extend to fellow veterans and their families. Every meeting begins with the question: "Is there a member of the post or a family member in distress?"

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Parkville VFW post on its 50th anniversary. The veterans who fought to keep our country free have worked hard to make our community a better place to live. The veterans of Post 9083 have shown an uncommon caring and dedication to others that truly make them a valued asset to our community.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE "CHEGUI" TORRES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a dear friend, Jose "Chegui" Torres, an accomplished boxer and writer whose 60th birthday will be celebrated today among family and friends at Jimmy's Bronx Cafe in the Bronx, NY.

A fellow countryman, Chegui, as his close friends call him, was born in "la Playa de Ponce," Puerto Rico. His talent in boxing was evident at a very young age. In 1956, Chegui won the silver medal in the Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. A year later, he migrated to the United States to continue his successful career in boxing.

In 1965, Jose won the light heavyweight world title at a match at the Madison Square Garden, New York City. He was the first Puerto Rican to ever win a medium weight world championship in boxing. Members of the East Harlem community, in which he lived, made him a hero that day and held a parade to celebrate his victory. It was during this parade that Jose took the stage to acknowledge the thousands of fans and distinguished himself as an eloquent speaker.

Jose is characterized as a person who can talk to people from all socio-economic backgrounds. He is well liked and respected in the community. Throughout the years, Jose has been a community activist and a fighter for minorities and poor people.

After retiring from his boxing career, Jose was appointed by former Gov. Mario Cuomo to lead the New York State Athletic Commission. He also served City Council President Paul D'wyer, and worked in the election campaigns of then candidate to Congress Nydia Velázquez, and Mayor David Dinkins.

Most recently, Jose has collaborated with the daily newspapers the New York Post and "El Diario/La Prensa," as a guest columnist. He frequently writes about a wide variety of subject matters, from boxing and city life, to the socioeconomic plight of the poor, the elderly, and minorities. He has also written books on Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson.

On his 60th birthday, his wife, Ramona, friends, and other relatives will gather at Jimmy's Bronx Cafe for a surprise birthday party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Jose "Chegui" Torres, a remarkable friend and individual, a happy birthday and a long and healthy life.

IN HONOR OF ALAN FRIEDMAN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, as an early supporter of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, I know how extraordinarily important its education programs are to southern California students. Fortunately so does Alan Friedman, a socially conscious power lawyer who was president of CRF's board of directors from 1992 through 1993.

I am pleased to learn that Alan and another close friend and life force, Jack Valenti, will be honored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles on May 7. Alan has been an active member of the board of directors of the Constitutional Rights Foundation since

1986, taking particular interest in its programs dealing with national and community service. During his presidency of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Los Angeles experienced the riots in the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. Alan rightfully takes pride in the Constitutional Rights Foundation's quick response to the riots by creating teaching materials and developing community service programs involving thousands of Los Angeles youth.

Alan is active in many areas in the community. He is a past chair of the labor law section of the Los Angeles Bar, served as labor relations counsel to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, and was for many years chair of Mayor Bradley's Labor-Management Advisory Committee. Alan also served on the Los Angeles Board of Civil Service Commissioners and was its president from 1985 to 1986. From 1990 to 1991, he was president of the Board of Bet Tzedek—House of Justice—Legal Services Foundation and continues to serve on its board.

Mr. Speaker, public service is the highest calling. At a time when public budgets are strained, it is particularly noteworthy that fine lawyers like Alan Friedman step up. I salute him.

IN HONOR OF JON THOMAS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an impressive young North Dakotan. Jon Thomas of Bismarck has won a scholarship from the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Mr. Thomas placed fifth in the Nation for the theme "Answering America's Call."

I am very excited to see such worthwhile ideas and refreshing optimism coming from North Dakota's youth. It is my pleasure to submit Mr. Thomas' essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Last summer, I decided to leave the country and travel the world. One month into my trip I was feeling quite homesick. So I decided I'd better call home. I quickly ran to a pay phone and dialed 1-800-Collect. I knew that if I ever needed anything, calling collect would not be a problem. I then dialed America and listened for an operator to pick up.

"Hello. You have reached the United States of America, the land of opportunity, freedom, individual rights and expression * * * I'm sorry but we can't answer the phone right now, because no one here knows how to answer America's call."

I couldn't believe it!! Here I was in a foreign country, trying to get through to my home, and it wasn't possible! Why? Because a bunch of USA operators didn't know what it was to answer America's call. Hey!! That's easy! No Problem! Even I could do that! Couldn't I?

Maybe I could see America differently now because I was away from it. Maybe the people who are in America are taking it for

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